

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2012

0277

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We want to express our full support of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) proposed rule to have broadcast stations make political files publicly available online and we urge you to implement these proposed rule changes as soon as possible. With campaign season in full swing and new Super PACs springing up weekly, the public must have access to information about who is funding these ads.

Currently, broadcast stations are required to make the public inspection file, including the political file regarding campaign ads, available to the public in paper form only. Taking the additional step of having these documents available online would create transparency in a time of increasing campaign-finance secrecy. The information in these files should be available in an online, searchable database, and disclosures should include information about the people and organizations that purchase political advertisements.

With the 2012 election season already underway, citizens have a right to know who is purchasing public airtime to support or oppose candidates. More people rely on TV stations for information than any other medium, making transparency in advertising critically important. However, the creators of campaign ads often hide behind confusing organizational names that do not provide adequate information about who is actually paying for the ads, or worse, can actually mislead the public about the identity or purpose of the advertisement. This problem is compounded by the Citizens United decision and the proliferation of Super PACs. The online posting of information in broadcast stations' political file cannot wait until months after the election; citizens deserve to know who is responsible for funding these advertisements today.

When formulating the final rule, we urge you to take into consideration the comments of broadcasters and do everything possible to find a cost-effective and efficient method for publishing this information online, especially for small- and medium-sized stations.

We urge the FCC to act swiftly and decisively to make the entire public inspection file readily available to the public, by posting the information in an online, searchable database. The contents of the political file must be included, since that information is necessary for the public to know the truth behind who is funding campaign ads. While acting quickly to establish the new rules, we ask that the FCC make every effort to limit the administrative burden to broadcasters. The public files need to be taken out of the file cabinet and moved onto the Internet to ensure that the public has easy access to this information.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
Member of Congress



DAVID CICILLINE
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



GERRY CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



JOHN OLVER
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



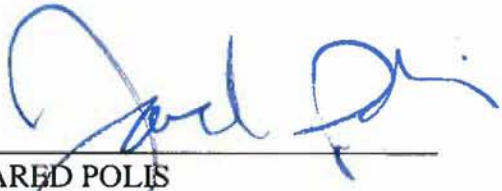
GARY ACKERMAN
Member of Congress



JIM MORAN
Member of Congress



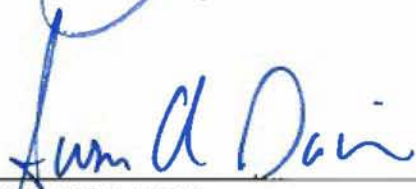
MAURICE HINCHEY
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Gary L. Ackerman
U.S. House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ackerman:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Genachowski', is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JG", is written over the name Julius Genachowski.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Russ Carnahan
U.S. House of Representatives
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carnahan:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable David Cicilline
U.S. House of Representatives
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cicilline:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a cursive "Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
U.S. House of Representatives
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Connolly:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Susan A. Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Davis:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Ted Deutch
U.S. House of Representatives
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Deutch:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a dot.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
U.S. House of Representatives
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey
U.S. House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hinchey:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over the name "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable James P. Moran
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moran:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JG", is written over the name Julius Genachowski.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable John W. Olver
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olver:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
501 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to require television broadcasters to post their public files online – including their political files. Your letter will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Congress has mandated through the Communications Act that broadcasters have unique public interest obligations, including the public availability of a broadcast station's political file. The Commission recently acted to ensure that television broadcasters' public files, including the political files, be accessible not just in hard-to-access physical filing cabinets, but online. This requirement not only promotes transparency and accessibility, but based on the record in this proceeding will result in long-term efficiencies and cost savings for broadcasters. I am pleased that the Commission took this important action to modernize its public file procedures in order to make this important information more accessible to the public.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski